

WE SHOW THAT HOCK BURNS ARE RIFE IN BRITAIN'S SUPERMARKETS

Since publishing the article 'Chicken Supreme' in our last newsletter, accompanied by postcards to send to various supermarkets, we have been inundated with requests to explain more about the hock burns which are evident on chickens being sold in supermarkets.

We have carried out a survey on stores in Norfolk and found chickens which had suffered hock burns displayed on the shelves of *Tesco, Asda, Co-op, Waitrose, Morrisons, Somerfield and even Sainsbury's and Marks & Spencer where we also saw the tell-tale signs on 'organic' chicken!

These painful lesions are sustained when chickens are forced to put on as much weight in the shortest possible time. With their legs unable to support their bodies properly, many drag themselves around to reach food and water, and have no choice but to crouch on filthy, ammonia-soaked floors. As a result, many chickens suffer breast blisters and hock burns such as the example shown here.

Next time you are in a supermarket why not do your own investigation and check out the chicken section - fresh and frozen? Hock burns are very easy to spot, although sometimes you will see a 'nick' on the hock where the offending burn has been cut out. Maybe you would like to confront the manager with your findings and with a little research you can even quote to him the suppliers of the poultry. The label on wrapped meat products carries a code from which you can easily find

the producer. If you have access to the internet - just type in 'astab' and the UK number on a Google search eg **ASTAB 5464** and the supplier's name will appear. Alternatively contact us for a complete list of producers' names and locations.

***Suppliers of the chickens we found with hock burns at the above supermarkets are: Tesco (3005 Dove Valley Poultry Ltd, Asbourne), Asda (3006 Faccenda Chicken Ltd, Brackley), Co-op (5011 Buxted Chicken Ltd, Suffolk), Waitrose (9502 Moy Park Ltd, Coolhill Dungannon), Morrisons (4014 Sun Valley Poultry Ltd Hereford), Somerfield (5017 GW Padley Poultry Ltd, Suffolk), Sainsbury's (9504 Farm Fed Chickens, Coleraine, organic 8005 Lloyd Maunder Ltd, Cullompton) and Marks & Spencer (5011 Buxted Chicken Ltd, Suffolk, organic 7161 JW&VM Scale, Pembrokeshire).**

(NB: Most supermarkets are supplied by more than one poultry producer.)



This hock burn was apparent on a chicken in the Co-op, but we also found similar evidence of poor animal welfare in EVERY supermarket we surveyed.

